

MSGNO 30 (STXX) S4A *18/01/83* *11:57*
 ZCZC 16:55:47Z (ST)

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CO-VE BARBER

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STATE

83 0302597 SCR

NC 1312597

T(R: 181617Z JAN 83

RR RUEA IIB
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
 STU7987
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 DE RUESEG #0486 018:1337
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 R 181337Z JAN 83
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE W/SHDC 5816
 INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 5588
 BT
 EZ1:

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 00486

EZ2:

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: FBOR, PGCV, IE, CO
 SUBJECT: LLOREDA D'INIES SETTING DEADLINE FOR BOUNDARY
 - TALKS

REF: A) FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PA131249 13 JAN 83;

- B) 82 BOGOTA 10640

1. SUMMARY. COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGO LLOREDA HAS CLAIMED THAT PRESS MISQUOTATION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVOKING GOV COMPLAINTS LAST WEEK ABOUT AN ALLEGED UNILATERAL COLOMBIAN DEADLINE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' LONG-STANDING MARITIME BOUNDARY DISPUTE. EVEN THOUGH LLOREDA DENIED SETTING A DEADLINE, HE DID EMPHASIZE THAT COLOMBIANS WERE GROWING TIRED OF POSTPONING THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. COLOMBIAN RADIO BROADCASTS REACHING CARACAS EARLY LAST WEEK APPARENTLY QUOTED LLOREDA AS SAYING THAT COLOMBIA WOULD RESORT TO AN OUTSIDE SOLUTION--PROBABLY THE WORLD COURT--IF NEW BILATERAL TALKS FAIL TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WITHIN A YEAR AFTER THE NEW VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED. ACCORDING TO SUBSEQUENT VENEZUELAN PRESS REPORTS REPRINTED IN BOGOTA, GOV FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE ALBERTO ZAMBRANO VELASCO REACTED TO THE NEWS WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS ILLOGICAL TO SET A DEADLINE FOR A ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD NOT EVEN BEGUN YET, AND WHOSE DURATION NO ONE COULD REASONABLY PREDICT. LUIS ESTEBAN REY, A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMISSION OF THE VENEZUELAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, ALSO CALLED LLOREDA'S REFUTED DEADLINE

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"NEITHER CONVENIENT NOR PRUDENT."

3. LLOREDA RESPONDED BY CLAIMING THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY SPOKEN OF REOPENING THE NEGOTIATIONS--NOT CLOSING THEM--ROUGHLY ONE YEAR FROM NOW, SOON AFTER THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF DECEMBER 1983. HIS ORIGINAL POINT WAS THAT ONE YEAR IS NOT TOO LONG TO WAIT FOR RESUMING A SERIES OF TALKS WHICH HAS ALREADY DRAGGED ON INTERMITTENTLY FOR 15 YEARS; HE CLAIMS HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT WHEN THE NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS OUGHT TO END. EVEN SO, HE DID REFER TO THE PROSPECTIVE 1984 TALKS AS A "LAST EFFORT" BEFORE OPTING FOR A SOLUTION OUTSIDE OF BILATERAL CHANNELS. HE ADDED THAT COLOMBIANS ARE GETTING TIRED OF WAITING. (SEE REFTEL A)

4. COMMENT. LLOREDA'S CORRECTED VERSION SEEMS ACCURATE. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS STATEMENT (RUNCILY APPLAUDED BY THE GOV) LAST SEPTEMBER THAT IT SIMPLY SEEMS IMPRACTICAL FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO RESUME TALKS UNTIL AFTER VENEZUELA HAS GOTTEN PAST THE POLITICAL TURMOIL OF ITS ELECTIONS; HIS COMMENT ABOUT COLOMBIANS GETTING TIRED OF DELAYS ALSO REFLECTS A HEALTHY POLITICAL REGARD FOR THE UNANIMOUSLY IMPATIENT REACTION WHICH HIS SEPTEMBER STATEMENT AROUSED IN ALL SECTORS OF COLOMBIAN POLITICAL OPINION (SEE REFTEL B FOR DETAILS). THE "ONE LAST EFFORT" COMMENT DOES CONSTITUTE A NEW ELEMENT IN THE GOC APPROACH TO THE ISSUE, BUT IT IS A MORE SUBTLE FORM OF PRESSURE THAN THE "DEADLINE" WHICH THE GOV ORIGINALLY INFERRED. END COMMENT. BOYATT

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